



612 Roster Additions and Substitutes Policy

This policy outlines the process for adding substitute players to a roster. The intent of this policy is for coaches to have guidelines and understand resources available to them and preferred priorities when securing substitute players for their team. Teams will roster only those players that have been assigned to their team by the Player Selection Committee, no permanent player may be added to a team without the consent of the Player Selection Committee for their age group. **(612 Philosophy and Guidelines.)** This policy only covers temporary players.

Coaches/teams having excessive attendance issues they cannot manage on their own should reach out to the Softball Director for guidance. If there are scenarios for subs not explicitly outlined in the policy document, reach out to the Softball Director for clarification. If the Softball Director is not available, next in line, contact the 1) Vice-President followed by the 2) President if time-sensitive responses are required. Coaches are also responsible for alerting the Softball Director if at any point during the season their team is at risk of not being able to compete in the league state tournament.

Substitute players should be used to: 1) Prevent teams from forfeiting league games when rescheduling is not possible 2) Ensure teams have enough players to compete in invitational tournaments for which they have signed up for 3) Minimize a team having to opt-out of the State Qualifier or State Tournament due to not enough players 4) Allowing a team to participate in a Nationals Tournament for which they have earned a berth but they are short players (by 3 or less athletes) .

Substitute players should not be used to: Materially alter the competitive level of your team.

Compliance with league and tournament rules are mandatory.

- Coaches are responsible to ensure all subs are age-eligible and properly rostered according to league and tournament guidelines. That includes officially rostering with MN Softball.
- Substitute players, which can include past 612 players who are not registered for the current season, players from other associations, or pick-up players who have never played for 612 must complete a registration for the current season so that all waivers are on file. The Softball Director will provide a code and a link to register for the athletes guardians, or athletes 18U or older to complete the waivers.

All substitution discussions within 612 must start with the head coach or board. Avoid starting discussions with players or guardians even if you have a relationship with the player/parents/guardians.

Sub Procurement Process and Association Preference Priorities

Priorities for Fill-in Players Are As Follows

Event Type	Priority Preferences	Notes/Guidance
League Games	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age-eligible players not registered with 612 for the current season 2. a.) Communicate with the competing coach and arrange to play short-handed 8 (league games would count), b.) Work to reschedule contests home or away on a non-league night or the make-up week c.) If you must 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Softball Director/ VP/President will have access to age eligible players not currently playing and can assist identifying candidates and helping teams navigate attaining subs. Coordination

	<p>forfeit, inquire if the team is willing to scrimmage d.) Check with the Softball Director to see if a member of the younger age group on an existing 612 is available. The preference is not to take players away from a scheduled practice.</p>	<p>should start as soon as issues arise. As a guideline, three days notice is minimum. The shorter the timeline the less chance of success.</p>
<p>Invitational Tournaments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age-eligible players not registered with 612 for the current season (can include players from other associations) 2. Same-age eligible players from other 612 of the same participation level if they are not committed to play in the same tournament or have other obligations (For example 12B Royal player subbing for 12B Carolina. Eligibility rules provide further clarification below.) 3. Players from younger 612 teams who are capable of filling in at an older age-level. Requires sign-off by Softball Director, VP or President. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a guideline, three days notice is minimum. The shorter the timeline the less chance of success.
<p>National Tournaments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age-eligible players not registered with 612 for the current season (can include players from other associations) 2. Same-age eligible players from other 612 of the same participation level if they are not committed to play in the same tournament or have other obligations (For example 12B Royal player subbing for 12B Carolina. Eligibility rules provide further clarification below) 3. Players from younger 612 teams who are capable of filling in at an older age-level. Requires sign-off by Softball Director, VP or President. 4. All substitutions must be in compliance with tournament rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams should only accept Nationals berths if they can compete with the team who earned the berth. Stacking the team with talent or competing with the team substantially altered is prohibited. • Pick-up player rules apply based upon the sanctioning body

Substitute Policy Provisions

- This policy expressly prohibits substituting players from a higher level playing, playing down a level (**ie:** an A player playing down at the B level).
- This policy does not prohibit a substitution player from playing at their level. For example, if the tournament is a B/C tournament and the C team needs a player, they could bring a B player since that player is still playing at their level.
- In the event that no players are available at the same age level, coaches may then ask coaches at an age level below for potential players skilled enough to participate.
- Players filling a roster spot should be treated as fully rostered players with 612's playing time guidelines enforced. (i.e. Do not put a sub on your roster and make them sit only if you need to use them.)
- The playing time criteria is intended to acknowledge that the player and family are helping another team with the intention of playing, not sitting on the bench in case they are needed.
- Substitute pitchers and catchers should not take normal playing time away from current team pitchers and catchers, rather the time should be divided evenly as much as possible.

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- The maximum number of subs for a tournament is three
- The per player cost for subs at National Tournaments (excluding meals, hotels, transportation) should be subsidized by the team among the existing rostered players
- The player added cannot be rostered on another 612 team playing in the same tournament. A player also can only play in the State Tournament for the team they were rostered on for Qualifiers.
- This policy expressly prohibits substituting players from other teams for rostered players if those rostered players are willing and able to play in the tournament. This includes additional tournaments the team collectively agrees to play beyond the number of tournaments funded by 612 regardless of whether the tournament is in-state or out-of-state.
- This policy expressly prohibits substituting players from leaving your own team to play for a different team